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## TRAIL-BLAZER SYSTEMS OF THE MIDDLE WAY (MADHYAMIKA) SCHOOL

### MIDDLE WAY CONSEQUENTIALIST – *Prasangika Madhyamika*

Trail-Blazer	<i>CHANDRAKIRTI</i> [ཇམ་བླ་གསེང་པ་] (600–c. 650 CE), the <i>Prasangika</i> Trail-Blazer
Trail-Blazing System	Expounds (through the citation of texts and through reasoning) that there is not even a particle that exists inherently, and that actions and their agents are feasible by conventionally being mere name and mere imputation.
Trail-Blazing Treatise	<i>Clear Words</i> , by Chandrakirti is the <i>Prasangika</i> Trail-Blazing treatise. <sup>1</sup>

### MIDDLE WAY AUTONOMY – *Svatantrika Madhyamika*

Trail-Blazer	<i>BHAVAVEVIKA</i> [འཇགས་ལྡན་འབྱེད་] (c.500–c.578 CE), the Svatantrika Trail-Blazer.
Trail-Blazing System	Expounds (through the citation of texts and through reasoning) that there is <b>not even a particle</b> that <b>exists truly</b> , and <b>conventionally inherently existent actions</b> and <b>their agents are feasible</b> .
Trail-Blazing Treatise	<i>Lamp for (Nagarjuna's) "Wisdom"</i> , the <i>Essence of the Middle Way (in verse)</i> and its auto-commentary, <i>Blaze of Reasoning</i> <sup>2</sup> by Bhavavevika are the <i>Svatantrika</i> Trail-Blazing treatises.

<sup>1</sup> *Clear Words, Commentary on (Nagarjuna's) "Treatise on the Middle"*, དབྱེ་མ་རྩ་བའི་འགྲེལ་པ་རྒྱུ་གསལ་བ་.

<sup>2</sup> *Blaze of Reasoning: Commentary on the "Heart of the Middle"*, དབྱེ་མ་འཇགས་པའི་འགྲེལ་པ་རྒྱུ་གསལ་བ་.

### MIDDLE WAY SUTRA AUTONOMY – *Sautrantika-Svatantrika Madhyamika*

<b>Trail-Blazer</b>	<i>BHAVAVEVIKA</i> (c.500-c.578 CE), is also the <i>Sautrantika-Svatantrika</i> Trail-Blazer.
<b>Trail-Blazing System</b>	Expounds (through the citation of texts and through reasoning) that <b>external phenomena do exist</b> and that there is <b>no Self-Knower</b> .
<b>Trail-Blazing Treatise</b>	<i>Lamp for (Nagarjuna's) "Wisdom"</i> , the (verses) <i>Essence of the Middle Way</i> and its auto-commentary, <i>Blaze of Reasoning</i> by Bhavavevika are the <i>Svatantrika</i> Trail-Blazing treatises.

### MIDDLE WAY YOGIC AUTONOMY – *Yogacara-Svatantrika Madhyamika*

<b>Trail-Blazer</b>	<i>SHANTARAKSHITA</i> [ཞི་བ་འཕྲོ་] (8 <sup>th</sup> cent. CE) is also the <i>Yogacara-Svatantrika</i> Trail-Blazer.
<b>Trail-Blazing System</b>	Expounds (through the citation of texts and through reasoning) that <b>external phenomena do not exist</b> and that there is a <i>Self-Knower</i> .
<b>Trail-Blazing Treatise</b>	<i>Ornament for the Middle Way</i> and its <i>Auto-commentary</i> by Shantarhavavevika are the <i>Yogacara Svatantrika</i> Trail-Blazing treatises. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> *Skt. madhyamakalamkara*; དཔུ་མ་གྱུན་.

## TRAIL-BLAZER SYSTEMS OF THE MIND ONLY (CHITTAMATRA) SCHOOL

### TRUE ASPECTARIAN MIND ONLY – *Satyakaravadin Chittamatra*

<b>Trail-Blazer</b>	<b>VASUBANDHU</b> [དབྱིག་གཞིན] (4 <sup>th</sup> cent. CE) is the <i>True Aspectarian</i> [རྣམ་བདེན་པ་] <i>Mind Only</i> Trail-Blazer.
<b>Trail-Blazing System</b>	Expounds that the appearance of gross form to the eye consciousness in the continuum of an ordinary person <i>exists as rough form the way it appears</i> .
<b>Trail-Blazing Treatises</b>	<i>EIGHT DISSERTATIONS OF PRAKARANA</i> by Vasubhandu are the <i>True Aspectarian Chittamatrin</i> Trail-Blazing treatises.

#### *EIGHT PRAKARANA TREATISES:*

1. *Commentary on [Maitreya's] 'Ornament for the Mahayana Sutras'*
2. *Commentary on [Maitreya's] 'Differentiation of the Middle Way & the Extremes'*
3. *Commentary on [Maitreya's] the 'Differentiation of Phenomena and the Nature of Phenomena'*
4. *Reasoning for Explanations*
5. *Dissertation on the Accomplishment of Practice*
6. *Dissertation on the Five Aggregates*
7. *Twenty Stanzas*
8. *Thirty Stanzas*

## FALSE ASPECTARIAN MIND ONLY – Alikakaravadin Chittamatra

Trail-Blazer	<i>DIGNAGA</i> [འཕྲིགས་ཀྱི་སྒྲུངས་པོ་] (c 480-540 CE) is the <i>False Aspectarian</i> [ནམ་བཟུན་པ་] <i>Mind Only</i> Trail-Blazer.
Trail-Blazing System	Expounds that the appearance of gross form to the eye consciousness in the continuum of an ordinary person <i>does not exist as rough form the way it appears</i> .
Trail-Blazing Treatise	<i>Condensed Eight Thousand Stanzas</i> by Dignaga is the <i>False Aspectarian Chittamatrin</i> Trail-Blazing treatise. <sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Summary Meaning of the Eight Thousand Stanza Perfection of Wisdom Sutra , བརྒྱད་སྟོང་དོན་བསྟུས་ཀྱི་ཤེས་རབ་ཀྱི་པ་རོལ་ཏུ་ཕྱིན་མ་བསྟུས་པའི་ཆོག་ལཱུར་བྱས་པ་།.

## SUTRA SOURCES FOR THE ORNAMENT FOR CLEAR REALIZATION THE SEVENTEEN MOTHER & SON SUTRAS

There are seventeen (17) *Perfection of Wisdom Sutras*, which were translated into Tibetan, that are the sutra sources of the *Ornament for Clear Realization*. Those seventeen are called the “*Seventeen Mother and Son [Sutras]*”: six Mothers and eleven Sons.

The **SIX MOTHERS** are the:

1. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **One Hundred Thousand** (Verses)
2. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Twenty Thousand** (Verses)
3. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Eighty Thousand** (Verses)
4. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Ten Thousand** (Verses)
5. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Eight Thousand** (Verses)
6. **Condensed** (*Perfection of Wisdom Sutra*) - (*Verse Summary of the Perfection of Wisdom in Eight Thousand Lines*)

These are known as **MOTHERS** because they all explain completely the *Eight Clear Realisations*.

The **ELEVEN SONS** are:

1. **Perfection of Wisdom in Seven Hundred**
2. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Five Hundred** (Verses)
3. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Three Hundred** (Verses),
4. (*Perfection of Wisdom of*) **One Hundred Fifty Methods**,
5. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Fifty** (Verses)
6. **Twenty-Five Doors** (*Perfection of Wisdom Sutras*)
7. **Questions of Suvikrantavikrami Sutra**
8. **Questions of Kaoshika Sutra**
9. **One Letter Perfection of Wisdom**
10. (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Several Words Sutra**
11. **Heart of Wisdom** (Sutra)

These are known as **SONS** because they only explain some — not all — of the *Eight Clear Realisations*.

Only three *Perfection of Wisdom Sutras* are the *principal sutra sources* of the *Ornament for Clear Realization*. Those three are the:

1. **Extensive Sutra** – (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **One Hundred Thousand** (Verses)
2. **Middling Sutra** - (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Twenty Thousand** (Verses)
3. **Brief Sutra** - (*Perfection of Wisdom in*) **Eight Thousand** (Verses).